

What is claimed is:

1. A magnetoresistance device comprising a substrate, a lower layer formed on the substrate, and a magnetoresistance structure formed on the lower layer,

5        wherein the lower layer is formed of amorphous  $Zr_xAl_{1-x}$  ( $0 < x < 1$ ) or  $Zr_xAl_{1-x}O_y$  ( $0 < x < 1$ ,  $0 < y < 1$ ).

2. The device of claim 1, further comprising an upper layer formed on the magnetoresistance structure, the upper layer formed of amorphous  $Zr_xAl_{1-x}$  ( $0 < x < 1$ ) or  
10  $Zr_xAl_{1-x}O_y$  ( $0 < x < 1$ ,  $0 < y < 1$ ).

3. The device of claim 1, wherein the magnetoresistance structure comprises:

      a first ferromagnetic layer of which magnetization direction is varied by an applied magnetic field;

15        a spacer layer formed on the first ferromagnetic layer, the spacer layer formed of an nonmagnetic material;

      a second ferromagnetic layer formed on the spacer layer, the second ferromagnetic layer of which magnetization direction is fixed; and

20        a semi-ferromagnetic layer formed on the second ferromagnetic layer, the semi-ferromagnetic layer for fixing the magnetization direction of the second ferromagnetic layer.

4. The device of claim 2, wherein the magnetoresistance structure comprises:

25        a first ferromagnetic layer of which magnetization direction is varied by an applied magnetic field;

      a spacer layer formed on the first ferromagnetic layer, the spacer layer formed of an nonmagnetic material;

      a second ferromagnetic layer formed on the spacer layer, the second ferromagnetic layer of which magnetization direction is fixed; and

30        a semi-ferromagnetic layer formed on the second ferromagnetic layer, the semi-ferromagnetic layer for fixing the magnetization direction of the second ferromagnetic layer.

5. The device of claim 1, wherein the magnetoresistance structure comprises:

a semi-ferromagnetic layer;

a first ferromagnetic layer formed on the semi-ferromagnetic layer, the first ferromagnetic layer of which magnetization direction is fixed by the semi-ferromagnetic layer;

a spacer layer formed on the first ferromagnetic layer, the spacer layer formed of an nonmagnetic material; and

a second ferromagnetic layer formed on the spacer layer, the second ferromagnetic layer of which magnetization direction is varied by an applied magnetic field.

6. The device of claim 2, wherein the magnetoresistance structure comprises:

a semi-ferromagnetic layer;

a first ferromagnetic layer formed on the semi-ferromagnetic layer, the first ferromagnetic layer of which magnetization direction is fixed by the semi-ferromagnetic layer;

a spacer layer formed on the first ferromagnetic layer, the spacer layer formed of an nonmagnetic material; and

a second ferromagnetic layer formed on the spacer layer, the second ferromagnetic layer of which magnetization direction is varied by an applied magnetic field.

7. The device of claim 1, wherein the magnetoresistance structure comprises:

a first ferromagnetic layer of which magnetization direction is varied by an applied magnetic field;

a tunneling barrier layer formed on the first ferromagnetic layer;

a second ferromagnetic layer formed on the tunneling barrier layer, the second ferromagnetic layer of which magnetization direction is fixed; and

a semi-ferromagnetic layer formed on the second ferromagnetic layer, the semi-ferromagnetic layer for fixing the magnetization direction of the second ferromagnetic layer.

8. The device of claim 2, wherein the magnetoresistance structure comprises:  
a first ferromagnetic layer of which magnetization direction is varied by an applied magnetic field;  
a tunneling barrier layer formed on the first ferromagnetic layer;  
5 a second ferromagnetic layer formed on the tunneling barrier layer, the second ferromagnetic layer of which magnetization direction is fixed; and  
a semi-ferromagnetic layer formed on the second ferromagnetic layer, the semi-ferromagnetic layer for fixing the magnetization direction of the second ferromagnetic layer.

10 9. The device of claim 1, wherein the magnetoresistance structure comprises:  
a semi-ferromagnetic layer;  
a first ferromagnetic layer formed on the semi-ferromagnetic layer, the first ferromagnetic layer of which magnetization direction is fixed by the semi-ferromagnetic  
15 layer;  
a tunneling barrier layer formed on the first ferromagnetic layer; and  
a second ferromagnetic layer formed on the tunneling barrier layer, the second ferromagnetic layer of which magnetization direction is varied by an applied magnetic field.

20 10. The device of claim 2, wherein the magnetoresistance structure comprises:  
a semi-ferromagnetic layer;  
a first ferromagnetic layer formed on the semi-ferromagnetic layer, the first ferromagnetic layer of which magnetization direction is fixed by the semi-ferromagnetic  
25 layer;  
a tunneling barrier layer formed on the first ferromagnetic layer; and  
a second ferromagnetic layer formed on the tunneling barrier layer, the second ferromagnetic layer of which magnetization direction is varied by an applied magnetic field.

30 11. A magnetoresistance device comprising a substrate, a magnetoresistance structure formed on the substrate, and an upper layer formed on the magnetoresistance structure,

wherein the upper layer is formed of amorphous  $Zr_xAl_{1-x}$  ( $0 < x < 1$ ) or  $Zr_xAl_{1-x}O_y$  ( $0 < x < 1$ ,  $0 < y < 1$ ).

- 5 12. The device of claim 11, wherein the magnetoresistance structure comprises:  
a first ferromagnetic layer of which magnetization direction is varied by an applied magnetic field;  
a spacer layer formed on the first ferromagnetic layer, the spacer layer formed of an nonmagnetic material;  
10 a second ferromagnetic layer formed on the spacer layer, the second ferromagnetic layer of which magnetization direction is fixed; and  
a semi-ferromagnetic layer formed on the second ferromagnetic layer, the semi-ferromagnetic layer for fixing the magnetization direction of the second ferromagnetic layer.

- 15 13. The device of claim 11, wherein the magnetoresistance structure comprises:  
a semi-ferromagnetic layer;  
a first ferromagnetic layer formed on the semi-ferromagnetic layer, the first ferromagnetic layer of which magnetization direction is fixed by the semi-ferromagnetic  
20 layer;  
a spacer layer formed on the first ferromagnetic layer, the spacer layer formed of an nonmagnetic material; and  
a second ferromagnetic layer formed on the spacer layer, the second ferromagnetic layer of which magnetization direction is varied by an applied magnetic  
25 field.

14. The device of claim 11, wherein the magnetoresistance structure comprises:  
a first ferromagnetic layer of which magnetization direction is varied by an applied magnetic field;  
30 a tunneling barrier layer formed on the first ferromagnetic layer;  
a second ferromagnetic layer formed on the tunneling barrier layer, the second ferromagnetic layer of which magnetization direction is fixed; and  
a semi-ferromagnetic layer formed on the second ferromagnetic layer, the semi-

ferromagnetic layer for fixing the magnetization direction of the second ferromagnetic layer.

15. The device of claim 11, wherein the magnetoresistance structure comprises:

5 a semi-ferromagnetic layer;

a first ferromagnetic layer formed on the semi-ferromagnetic layer, the first ferromagnetic layer of which magnetization direction is fixed by the semi-ferromagnetic layer;

a tunneling barrier layer formed on the first ferromagnetic layer; and

10 a second ferromagnetic layer formed on the tunneling barrier layer, the second ferromagnetic layer of which magnetization direction is varied by an applied magnetic field.

16. A magnetoresistance device comprising a magnetoresistance structure formed of a  
15 fixed layer of which magnetization direction is fixed by a semi-ferromagnetic layer, a free layer of which magnetization direction is varied, and a tunneling barrier layer formed between the fixed layer and the free layer,

wherein the tunneling barrier layer is formed of at least one selected from the group consisting of  $Zr_xAl_{1-x}O_y$  ( $0 < x < 1$ ,  $0 < y < 1$ ),  $Ti_xAl_{1-x}O_y$  ( $0 < x < 1$ ,  $0 < y < 1$ ), and  $Nb_xAl_{1-x}O_y$  ( $0 < x < 1$ ,  $0 < y < 1$ ).  
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17. The device of claim 16, wherein the magnetoresistance structure comprises:

a first ferromagnetic layer of which magnetization direction is varied by an applied magnetic field;

25 the tunneling barrier layer formed on the first ferromagnetic layer;

a second ferromagnetic layer formed on the tunneling barrier layer, the second ferromagnetic layer of which magnetization direction is fixed; and

a semi-ferromagnetic layer formed on the second ferromagnetic layer, the semi-ferromagnetic layer for fixing the magnetization direction of the second ferromagnetic layer.  
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18. The device of claim 16, wherein the magnetoresistance structure comprises:

a semi-ferromagnetic layer;

a first ferromagnetic layer formed on the semi-ferromagnetic layer, the first ferromagnetic layer of which magnetization direction is fixed by the semi-ferromagnetic layer;

the tunneling barrier layer formed on the first ferromagnetic layer; and

5 a second ferromagnetic layer formed on the tunneling barrier layer, the second ferromagnetic layer of which magnetization direction is varied by an applied magnetic field.